



Annual Reports

**Of the Medical Officer
of Health and Sanitary
Inspector of the Stafford
Rural District for the
Year 1935.**

STAFFORD:

Printed by R. W. Hourd & Son, 22, Mill Street.





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REPORT

*To the Chairman and Members of the Stafford
Rural District Council.*

EASTGATE,

STAFFORD,

MAY, 1936.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the health of the Stafford Rural District for the year 1935.

The Ministry of Health issues instructions regarding the compiling of Annual Reports, and the following report is based on their requirements, and arranged according to their schedule as far as possible. From April 1st, 1934, the Gnosall Rural District became incorporated in the Stafford Rural District, the area and population thus becoming considerably increased. The population is estimated by the Registrar General to be 13,090.

The Public Health Officers of the Local Authority are :

HERBERT MARSON, M.D., B.S.Durh., L.R.C.P. Lond.,
F.R.C.S.Eng., Medical Officer of Health (whole time).

JAMES W. COOK, M.R.S.I., Certified Meat Inspector,
Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

RICHARD LANGMAID, additional Sanitary Inspector
(whole time).



Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

| | | | | | | |
|--|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| AREA | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 80,960 Acres |
| POPULATION (as estimated by the Registrar General) | 13,000 | | | | | |
| NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1935) | ... | 3,638 | | | | |
| RATEABLE VALUE | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £53,510 |
| SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £202 |

The chief occupation of this rural area is Agriculture. A minority of the population are residents whose work takes them into the County Town, where the chief industries are Engineering and Shoe Manufacturing.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

| | | Total | M | F | |
|-------------|------------------|-------|-----|----|---|
| LIVE BIRTHS | Legitimate | 179 | 99 | 80 | Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 14.6 |
| | Illegitimate ... | 13 | 6 | 7 | |
| STILLBIRTHS | ... | ... | 15 | 9 | 6 |
| | | | | | Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 78.1 |
| DEATHS | ... | ... | 165 | 80 | 85 |
| | | | | | Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 12.6 |

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Puerperal sepsis | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Other puerperal causes | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | 2 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :— | Total 14. |
| All infants per 1,000 live births | ... |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | 72.9 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | 78.2 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | Nil |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | Nil |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | Nil |

There were no outstanding causes of sickness or mortality which were especially noteworthy in the area during the year.

A table is appended shewing the comparative death rates in the district for the past five years :—

| | | |
|-----------------|------|--|
| 1930 Death Rate | 9.7 | } Per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. |
| 1931 Death Rate | 12.6 | |
| 1932 Death Rate | 11.6 | |
| 1933 Death Rate | 9.2 | |
| 1934 Death Rate | 11.4 | |

Laboratory Facilities, Ambulance Facilities, Nursing in the Home, Clinics and Treatment Centres, Hospitals.

No important developments have occurred or changes been made during the past year in the services provided in the district under the above heads.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

Cases of Infectious Diseases continue to be satisfactorily few, although the number of Scarlet Fever cases is in excess this year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1935.

| DISEASE | Total Cases Notified | Deaths |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Small Pox... | Nil | Nil |
| Scarlet Fever .. | 32 | Nil |
| Diphtheria ... | 7 | 1 |
| Enteric Fever ... | 4 | Nil |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... | 3 | Nil |
| Puerperal Fever ... | 1 | Nil |
| Pneumonia... | 12 | 8 |
| Erysipelas .. | Nil | Nil |

RABIES.—No case of Rabies in human beings has occurred during the year.

ANTHRAX.—One case of Anthrax was contracted by a butcher, as a result of slaughtering and dressing an animal for human food. This was discovered before the carcase was offered for sale. The possibility of this occurring was anticipated (see Medical Officer's note on unlicensed Slaughtering) and provision was made for his immediate treatment should the disease develop. The man made a successful recovery.

Every case of infectious disease occurring in schools in the district is notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

The practitioners in the district have made full use of the privileges accorded to them of having bacteriological specimens examined by the County Bacteriologist.

All except very exceptional cases of Infectious Disease are removed to the Isolation Hospital. In cases not removed every care is taken to insure that suitable isolation in the patient's own home is provided. In no case in this rural area is Scarlet Fever allowed to be isolated at a home where milk is produced.

A table showing the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria during the past five years is appended :—

SCARLET FEVER.

| | | No. of Cases | | Rate per 1000 of Population | | Deaths |
|------|-----|--------------|-----|--------------------------------|-----|--------|
| 1931 | ... | 27 | ... | 2·7 | ... | Nil |
| 1932 | ... | 13 | ... | 1·3 | ... | Nil |
| 1933 | ... | 13 | ... | 1·3 | ... | Nil |
| 1934 | ... | 18 | ... | 1·48 | ... | Nil |
| 1935 | ... | 32 | ... | 2·4 | ... | Nil |

DIPHTHERIA.

| | | | | | | |
|------|-----|----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| 1931 | ... | 21 | ... | 2·1 | ... | Nil |
| 1932 | ... | 7 | ... | ·72 | ... | Nil |
| 1933 | ... | 3 | ... | ·303 | ... | Nil |
| 1934 | ... | 5 | ... | ·41 | ... | Nil |
| 1935 | ... | 7 | ... | ·53 | ... | 1 |

Tuberculosis.

| Age Periods. | | | New Cases notified in 1935. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----------------------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------|----|-----------------|----|
| | | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | | | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | ... | ... | | | | 4 | | | | |
| 1 | ... | ... | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | ... | ... | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | ... | ... | | 2 | | | | 1 | | |
| 25 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | | | | | 1 | |
| 35 | ... | ... | | | | | | | | |
| 45 | ... | .. | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 55 | ... | ... | | | | | | | | |
| 65 and upwards | | | | | | | | | | |
| Totals | ... | | 1 | 5 | | 4 | | 1 | 1 | |

The notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the district is satisfactory.

SPECIAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND ASH PITS.—A system of refuse collection by means of ash bins has now been established in most of the larger villages where practicable, and the same may be said of ash pits which are systematically cleansed.

CLEANER MILK.—The cow-houses, yards and buildings in the district are being systematically brought up to present requirements, and the results may be regarded as satisfactory as can reasonably be expected.

WATER SUPPLY.—A system by which water will be supplied to practically the whole of the district is being inaugurated and pressed forward with all available speed. Only remote isolated areas will be excluded from this scheme.

This is under the administration of Messrs. Elliott and Brown, Water Engineers, of Nottingham. It is to be regretted that only as small a sum as £5,000 is being contributed by the Government towards an outlay of £63,000 in an area roughly 24 miles long by 18 miles wide.

UNLICENSED SLAUGHTERING.—Additional attention has of late been directed to the slaughtering of animals on unlicensed premises, with the result that two cases of infringement of the Act have been detected. In one case an animal suffering from Anthrax was slaughtered and dressed for human food, but this was detected before consumption. The owner of the animal, who sanctioned its slaughter, was subsequently prosecuted and fined.

A further case in which a pig suffering from a disease was slaughtered for human food without the required notice having been given, was also detected before consumption. The individual so infringing the law was prosecuted and fined.

OVERCROWDING.—For many years I have been pressing upon the Council to erect houses at an economic rent to meet the needs of the agricultural residents in the district. Not only does overcrowding exist, as will be seen from the annexed figures, but the herding together as regards sleeping accommodation includes all ages and both sexes, an extremely undesirable condition. A complete census of the houses in the district, with the number of the occupants, both as regards age and sex, has been compiled, which shows in each parish the extent of overcrowding. This was required by the Housing Act of 1935. From this it will be seen that there are 38 cases of definite overcrowding, and 45 of what may be termed borderland cases, which latter are under consideration.

| Parish. | | Borderland Cases. | | Definite Overcrowding. | |
|---------------|-----|-------------------|---|------------------------|---|
| Adbaston | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 3 |
| Berkswich | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Bradley | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 3 |
| Brocton | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Castle Church | ... | .. | 3 | ... | 1 |
| Church Eaton | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 2 |
| Colwich | ... | ... | 4 | ... | — |
| Creswell | ... | ... | — | ... | 1 |
| Ellenhall | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Forton | ... | ... | 4 | ... | — |
| Fradswell | ... | ... | 2 | ... | — |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|------|-----|-----|----|-----|----|
| Gayton | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Gnosall | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | 3 |
| Haughton | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 4 |
| High Offley | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 |
| Hopton | .. | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 |
| Norbury | ... | ... | ... | — | ... | 1 |
| Ranton | | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Salt and Enson | ... | .. | ... | 1 | ... | 3 |
| Seighford | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 |
| Stowe | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | 2 |
| Weston | .. | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 2 |
| Whitgreave | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | — |
| | | | | — | ... | — |
| | | | | 45 | ... | 38 |
| | | | | — | ... | — |

HERBERT MARSON,
M.D., B.S.Durh., L.R.C.P.Lond., F.R.C.S.Eng.,
Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(1) WATER.—The Council has engaged a Water Engineer, who has submitted a scheme of public water supply for the western portion of the area.

Some 51 samples of the existing wells were bacteriologically tested by the County Authorities, and some 90 per cent. were certified as being more than two *bacillus coli*.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The Council has engaged an engineer for the Walton sewerage, and he has submitted a scheme to the Ministry of Health.

Also the Council is considering an extension of the sewer at Forton some 500 yards.

The drainage generally is to tanks with soakaways, and there are few complaints.

(1) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—At Gnosall some 12 conversions from conservancy to the water carriage system were made, and 25 conversions from privy middens to pan closets. Approximately the figures are 2,353 water closets, 1,081 pans, and 593 privy middens, and most of these are under notice for conversion to pan closets.

(2) PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The Council has undertaken the removal of house refuse by contract from the following parishes :—Berkswich, Brocton, Castlechurch, Creswell, Colwich, Gnosall, and 10 houses at Doxey within the parish of Seighford.

Refuse is collected on Milford Chase ; also regular attention is paid to levelling ashtips and covering at Colwich, Milford, Stowe and Weston.

Cesspool cleansing is done by owner or tenant.

(3) Sanitary Inspection of Area. Housing.

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for defects | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 605 |
| Under Public Health or Housing Acts. | | | | | | |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose (estimated) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 750 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-----|
| (2) (a) | Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 605 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | | | | | 750 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | ... | ... | ... | | 22 |
| (4) | Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | ... | ... | ... | ... | 400 |
| 2.— | Remedy of defects during the year without the service of formal notice. | | | | | |
| | Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | ... | ... | ... | No Record | |
| 3.— | Action under Statutory powers during the year. | | | | | |
| (a) | Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930. | | | | | |
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | | | | | 400 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :— | | | | | |
| | Repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 97 |
| | Unfit Houses re-conditioned | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| | | | | | — | |
| | | | | | 109 | |
| | (a) By Owners | ... | ... | ... | | 109 |
| | (b) By Local Authority | ... | ... | ... | | Nil |
| | (b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts. | | | | | |
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| | (a) By Owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| | (b) By Local Authority | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| | (c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930. | | | | | |

| | | |
|---|--------|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | | Nil |
| (d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930. | | |
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | | Nil |

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Some 307 dairy farms were inspected during the year, and 50 cowsheds reconditioned. Also 38 notices served for cleansing cows.

Meat and Other Foods.

96 Slaughter house inspections were made during the year, and the meat was of good quality.

The 35 small shops are regularly inspected. No special action has been taken under the Shops Act, 1934.

ADULTERATION.—Action is undertaken by the Staffordshire County Council. Chemical and bacteriological examination of food is also undertaken by the County Council.

Summary of Work.

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Houses Inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 605 |
| Houses Repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 109 |
| Houses Unfit | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| Demolished | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Closed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Reconditioned (included in 109) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Under Notice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| New Houses Built | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 186 |
| House Numbering, Walton and Greensome Lane | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 160 |
| Bakehouses Inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Shops Inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| Butchers' Shops Inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 |
| Slaughter Houses Inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 96 |
| Knackers' Yards Inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Samples of Water taken | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 51 |
| Farms Visited | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 307 |
| Cowsheds Reconditioned | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 50 |
| Farm Yards Filled In | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Public Houses, Separate Conveniences | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Drainage Defects. | | | | | | |

Street naming has been carried out at Walton and Whitgreave.

J. W. COOK, M.R.S.I.,
Sanitary Inspector.



